To combat tax evasion by way of legislative measures, provisions of Chapter XXC of the Income Tax Act empower Government to make pre-emptive purchase of immovable properties in 28 cities where the apparent consideration involved in the transaction exceeds Rs. 10 lakh. Till December, 1992, 872 orders have been passed wherein the apparent consideration was Rs. 345.60 crore. Also till December, 1992, 469 properties have been sold for a price of Rs. 251.60 crore as against the apparent consideration of Rs. 185.20 crore.

**Smuggling across Nepal Border**

3975. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the coming into operation of Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Treaty, the bilateral trade has been significantly stengthened and smuggling across the border has been fully prevented; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The value of goods legally imported from Nepal and legally exported to Nepal during the last 4 financial years are given below:—

(Value in Rs. crores)

| Year | Export | Import | Tota |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1989-90 | 83.32 | 0.56 | 83.88 |
| 1990-91 | 86.62 | 81.49 | 168.11 |
| 1991-92 | 196.55 | 70.11 | 266.66 |
| 1992-93 (April—November) | 136.88 | 45.12 | 182.00 |

From these figures it appears that the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade and Transit and the Agreement for Co-operation to Control Unauthorised Trade, 1991 assist the growth of bilateral trade between the two countries.

The Indo-Nepal border continues to be sensitive to smuggling. The value of contraband seized in the Indo-Nepal sector of the land border under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 during the last 3 calender years are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | Value of goods |
|---|---|
| 1990 | 24.73 |
| 1991 | 34.88 |
| 1992* | 34.56 |

(*Figures are provisional)

**Exemptions under the Income Tax Act**

3976. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some Voluntary Retirement Scheme of different Central Public Sector Undertakings for examination and for its views on the grant of exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961 during the last three years till date; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The approval of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in a Public sector company by the